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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/598,908        | 07/25/2007  | Sylvie Tournade      | 3712036.00755       | 1892             |
| 29157             | 7590        | 03/29/2012           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| K&L Gates LLP     |             |                      | ARIANI, KADE        |                  |
| P.O. Box 1135     |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| CHICAGO, IL 60690 |             |                      | 1651                |                  |
|                   |             |                      | NOTIFICATION DATE   | DELIVERY MODE    |
|                   |             |                      | 03/29/2012          | ELECTRONIC       |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

chicago.patents@klgates.com

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/598,908             | TOURNADE ET AL.     |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | KADE ARIANI            | 1651                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2012.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-11,13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11,13 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

Art Unit: 1651

***DETAILED ACTION***

The amendment filed on January, 27, 2012, has been received.

Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13 and 14 are pending in this application, claims 8-11, 13, and 14 are withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1-3, and 5-7 are examined on their merits.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/27/2012 has been entered.

***IDS***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on 01/03/2012, is related to another application (No. 12/724695) therefore the information disclosure statement is not considered by the examiner.

***Answer to Arguments***

All previous rejections are withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to rejections of claims 1-3 and 5-7 filed on 1/27/2012 have been considered but are moot because all the previous rejections are withdrawn and in view of the new grounds of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 1651

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, is withdrawn due to amendments filed on 1/03/2012.

The following is a quotation of the fourth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Subject to the [fifth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112], a claim in dependent form shall contain a reference to a claim previously set forth and then specify a further limitation of the subject matter claimed. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the claim upon which it depends, or for failing to include all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends.

In claim 3 the recitation "the microorganisms do not use lactose as a nutrient" fails to further limit the subject matter of the claim upon which it depends.

In claim 7 the recitation "a pH of 4 or greater" fails to further limit the subject matter of the claim upon which it depends.

Applicant may cancel the claim(s), amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, rewrite the claim(s) in independent form, or present a sufficient showing that the dependent claim(s) complies with the statutory requirements.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 1651

The rejection of claims 1, and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fleming et al. (Journal of Food Science 1983, Vol. 48, p.975-981), is withdrawn due to the amendments filed on 01/03/2012.

***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming et al. (Journal of Food Science 1983, Vol. 48, p.975-981) and Reniero et al. (WO 00/53202), is withdrawn due to amendments filed on 01/03/2012.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously cited Fleming et al. (Journal of Food Science 1983, Vol. 48, p.975-981) and XP- 002292994 (cited in IDS of 12/12/2006).

Fleming et al. teach a liquid product which is water-based comprises living microorganisms having a shelf-life of at least 1 month at 10°C, during which the pH is decreasing less than 2 points and the product is free of carbohydrates that can be metabolized by the microorganisms, microorganisms is a *Lactobacillus*, a probiotic, the product at 20°C experiences a decrease in pH of less than 2 points (brined vegetables fermented with *Lactobacillus plantarum* all fermentable sugars were removed and is stable during 12 months storage at room temperature, 24°C and at pH 3.3 or pH 3.8) (Abstract, p.978 2<sup>nd</sup> column 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, and p. 979 1<sup>st</sup> column "Discussion" lines 1-12), and the pH of the product at the beginning of storage is 4 or higher (pH 4.5) (p.976 1<sup>st</sup> column 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph line 10).

Art Unit: 1651

Moreover, at the time the invention was made a milk-based liquid product (liquid yogurt comprises milk) which comprises living microorganisms selected from *Bifidobacterium* (which is a lactic acid bacteria) (see XP- 002292994, English Abstract). Therefore, using *Bifidobacterium* in a milk-based liquid product would have been obvious.

It must also be noted that at the time the invention was made it was known in the art that the presence of carbohydrates that can be utilized in the medium by lactic acid bacteria the acidification (drop in pH) of the medium (see for example, previously cited Reniero et al., page 28 of the PDF Figure 2. acidification of *L. casei* ST11 or CNM I-2116, pH vs. fermentation time in hours, please note that the pH of the medium drops from 6.50 to 5.50 and continues to drop to pH 4.0 when sucrose and glucose are included in the growth medium).

Therefore, in view of the above teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been capable of applying the teachings of prior art by not including the carbohydrate(s) that can be metabolized by the probiotic microorganism in the liquid product (taught by XP- 002292994) with a reasonable expectation of success in providing a milk-based liquid product which comprises a microorganism selected from *Bifidobacterium* and have a shelf-life of at least 1 month at 10°C, and during the 1 month at 10°C the amount of living bacteria decreases less than 2 log-units. Because, prior art teaches the presence of carbohydrates that can be utilized by a probiotic lactic acid bacteria increases the acidification (drop in pH) of the medium, and because Fleming et al. teach removing the fermentable sugars from the liquid product comprising a probiotic microorganism/lactic acid bacteria, made the liquid product microbiologically stable during the storage for 12 months at room temperature/24°C.

### **Conclusion**

No claims are allowed.

Art Unit: 1651

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kade Ariani whose telephone number is (571) 272-6083. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on (571) 272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KADE ARIANI/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1651